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Russian non-interference is Lie of the Year

Angie Drobnic Holan PolitiFact

A mountain of evidence points to a single fact: Russia meddled in the U.S. presidential election of 2016.

In both classified and public reports, U.S. intelligence agencies have said Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered actions to interfere with the election. Those actions included the cyber-theft of private data, the placement of propaganda against particular candidates, and an overall effort to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process.

Members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, have held open and closed door hearings to probe Russia's actions. The congressional investigations are ongoing.

Facebook, Google and Twitter have investigated their own networks, and their executives have concluded — in some cases after initial foot-dragging — that Russia used the online platforms in attempts to influence the election.

After all this, one man keeps saying it didn't even happen.

"This Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story. It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won," said President Donald Trump in an interview with NBC's Lester Holt in May.

On Twitter in September, Trump said, "The Russia hoax continues, now it's ads on Facebook. What about the totally biased and dishonest Media coverage in favor of Crooked Hillary?"

POLITIFACT WISCONSIN

See POLITIFACT, Page 2A

Democrat Jones wins Ala. Senate seat

Kim Chandler and Steve Peoples
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election on Tuesday, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore

See SENATE, Page 2A

Court orders landlord Sherard to pay $64,550

Judge says no to small payments on code fines

Cary Spivak Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Will Sherard, long known as one of the most notorious Milwaukee central city landlords, must pay $64,550 in municipal court fines that he has been effectively dodging as far back as 2009, a state Court of Appeals judge ordered Tuesday.

Sherard

In a 16-page decision, Judge Timothy Dugan flatly rejected all of Sherard's arguments that he be allowed to continue making small payments on building code fines imposed in 19 separate cases.

See SHERARD, Page 6A

Ethics panel: John Doe report contained inaccuracies

Patrick Marley Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON – The leaders of the state Ethics Commission from both parties asked Attorney General Brad Schimel on Tuesday to acknowledge they had fully cooperated with a leak investigation, but Schimel quickly declined to do so.

Within hours, the Republican attorney general said a report he filed in court last week was accurate and criticisms of it were minor. He fired back by contending the head of the Ethics Commission had a potential conflict of interest and should stop participating in the case.

See JOHN DOE, Page 15A

BURNED:
A JOURNAL SENTINEL WATCHDOG REPORT

Peddling dangerous drums to the public

Empty containers that once held chemicals sold on Craigslist for little or no price — or regulation

Rick Barrett Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Take an empty steel drum, one that once held a flammable chemical or even something as common as motor oil. Now seal it tight and let it sit. Let the fumes remain bottled up inside for days, months, even years.

Do that, and you may have a virtual bomb — one that can be ignited by a spark from a cutting tool, even static electricity.

Now sell that drum on the internet.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of used and potentially dangerous industrial barrels are listed for sale on Craigslist and other sites where they are advertised as good for everything from rain barrels and trash cans to catfish traps and "smoker" backyard grills.

Often they sell for about $20. Sometimes they're even given away by businesses trying to unload their empties.

Coming Thursday

Drum-related accidents in businesses often follow the same pattern.

See BURNED, Page 8A

PHOTOS FROM CRAIGSLIST ADS

Sports
Aaron Rodgers says he's been cleared to return, **1B**

Business
Foxconn could get $140 million electricity project, **1D**

Weather
High 33° Low 16°
Snow. Forecast, **4C**

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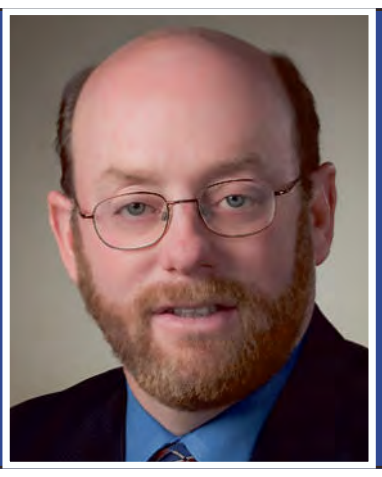
Milwaukee Magazine's guide to the best attorney



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